

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       A method for accepting payments from a consumer for a travel ticket  
2 from a travel company, the method comprising:  
3                   receiving at a point of sale device a transaction request that includes a  
4 transaction identifier that identifies a travel arrangement made with the travel company and a  
5 payment amount;  
6                   transmitting the payment amount and the transaction identifier to a host  
7 computer system for validation;  
8                   receiving a validation from the host computer system indicating that the  
9 transaction requested has been validated;  
10                  receiving a payment from the consumer; and  
11                  electronically transmitting at least a portion of the payment to the travel  
12 company.

1                   2.       The method as in claim 1 further comprising storing a record of the  
2 payment and the associated transaction request in a database.

1                   3.       The method as in claim 1 further comprising contacting an airline  
2 reservation system to stage the transaction and obtain the transaction identifier and the  
3 payment amount prior to receiving the transaction request at the point of sale device.

1                   4.       The method as in claim 1 further comprising transmitting to the travel  
2 company a confirmation that the payment was made by the consumer.

1                   5.       The method as in claim 1 wherein sending at least the portion of the  
2 payment to the travel company comprises electronically sending at least the portion of the  
3 payment to an account of the travel company.

1                   6.       The method as in claim 3 further comprising electronically  
2 transmitting from the host computer system to the travel reservation system a request to  
3 validate the transaction request.

1                   7.       The method as 6 further comprising receiving from the travel  
2 reservation system a response to the request to validate the transaction, wherein the response

includes an expected payment, and further comprising comparing at the host computer system the expected payment with the payment amount.

8. The method as in claim 7 wherein the validation is transmitted from the host computer system to the point of sale device if the expected payment matches the payment amount.

9. The method as in claim 8 wherein the validation further includes the expected payment in a currency where the point of sale device is located.

10. The method as in claim 8 wherein an error message is transmitted to the point of sale device if the expected payment does not match the payment amount, and further comprising re-entering the payment amount at the point of sale device.

11. The method as in claim 1 further comprising providing a confirmation to the consumer after the receiving the payment.

12. The method as in claim 11 wherein the confirmation comprises a paper receipt.

13. The method as in claim 11 wherein the confirmation comprises a travel ticket.

14. The method as in claim 1 wherein the transaction request further includes the consumer's name.

15. A method for facilitating a payment from a consumer for travel tickets sold by a travel company, the method comprising:  
receiving at a host computer system from a money transfer location a transaction request that includes a confirmation identifier and a payment amount generated by a travel reservation system that relates to a travel arrangement made with the travel company;  
transmitting the confirmation identifier to the travel reservation system from the host computer system for validation;  
receiving a confirmation from the travel reservation system that includes an expected payment amount;  
comparing at the host computer system the expected payment with the payment amount; and

12                   transmitting a validation to a money transfer location if the expected payment  
13 is the same as the payment amount.

1                   16.     A method as in claim 15, further comprising transmitting an error  
2 message to the money transfer location if the expected payment is different from the payment  
3 amount.

1                   17.     A method as in claim 15, further comprising receiving at the host  
2 computer system an indication that the payment amount has been received at the money  
3 transfer location, and transmitting a request to electronically transfer at least a portion of the  
4 payment amount to an account of the travel company.

1                   18.     A method facilitating a payment from a consumer for travel tickets  
2 sold by a travel company, the method comprising:  
3                   receiving a reservation request for a travel arrangement offered by a travel  
4 company;  
5                   storing a reservation in a travel reservation system that includes a confirmation  
6 identifier and a ticket price;  
7                   receiving a confirmation identifier from a host computer system along with a  
8 request to validate the confirmation identifier; and  
9                   transmitting from the reservation system to the host computer system an  
10 expected payment that is associated with the received confirmation identifier.

1                   19.     A method as in claim 18, further comprising receiving a country code  
2 from the host computer system and transmitting to the host computer system customer  
3 service information related to the country code.

1                   20.     A method as in claim 18, further comprising receiving a currency code  
2 at the reservation system and transmitting to the host computer system the expected payment  
3 in a currency corresponding to the currency code.

1                   21.     A point of sale system for accepting payments from a consumer for a  
2 travel ticket from a travel company, the system comprising:  
3                   a processor;  
4                   an input device;  
5                   a communication device; and

6                   a storage medium, wherein the storage medium includes instructions  
7   executable by the processor to:  
8                   receive a transaction request input from the input device that includes a  
9   transaction identifier that identifies a travel arrangement made with the travel company and a  
10   payment amount;  
11                  transmit the payment amount and the transaction identifier to a host computer  
12   system for validation using the communication device;  
13                  receive a validation from the host computer system indicating that the  
14   transaction requested has been validated using the communication device;  
15                  receive an indication of payment from the consumer suing the input device;  
16   and  
17                  electronically transmit a message of the payment to a host computer system  
18   using the communication device so that at least a portion of the payment may be transmitted  
19   to the travel company.

1                  22.    The system as in claim 21 further comprising a printer adapted for  
2   printing a receipt.

1                  23.    A host computer system for facilitating payments from a consumer to a  
2   travel company for a travel ticket issued from a travel company, the system comprising:  
3                  a processor;  
4                  an input device;  
5                  an output device; and  
6                  a storage medium, wherein the storage medium includes instructions  
7   executable by the processor to:  
8                  receive from a money transfer location using the input device a transaction  
9   request that includes a confirmation identifier and a payment amount generated by a travel  
10   reservation system that relates to a travel arrangement made with the travel company;  
11                  transmit the confirmation identifier using the output device to the travel  
12   reservation system for validation;  
13                  receive a confirmation from the travel reservation system that includes an  
14   expected payment amount;  
15                  compare the expected payment with the payment amount; and

16                   transmit a validation to a money transfer location if the expected payment is  
17   the same as the payment amount.